

# The HUB

The Official Newsletter of American Fork City



## CITIZENS WANT TO KNOW

New Report Offers In-Depth Look on Property Taxes

At its core property taxes are simple: a government entity decides on a tax rate which is then applied to the value of a property; the rate x property value = tax revenue. For a city like American Fork, property taxes are one of three main ways we pay for the services our resident's request. The other two revenues are sales tax and fees. But while the basics of property tax calculations are straightforward, actual property taxes in Utah are a little more complicated. It's important for Utah residents to learn about some of these tax details to better understand the value and constraints Utah property taxes creates for them.

In an effort to educate American Fork City residents on how property taxes work, we have compiled a comprehensive report which is featured in this month's edition of Citizens Want to Know. The report takes an in-depth look at property tax rates, including Utah's certified tax rate and how much AF residents really pay in taxes and fees compared to other cities.

Take the time to read the full report in Citizens Want to Know by visiting [americanfork.gov](http://americanfork.gov). You'll find a link to the report under the City News section on the home page.

Read the Latest Edition of  
Citizens Want to Know at:  
[americanfork.gov](http://americanfork.gov)

### DID YOU KNOW?

- Only half (55%) of your home value is even taxed.
- Only 18% of the property taxes you pay go to American Fork City.
- Residents pay more property taxes to the school district than every other taxing entity combined.
- American Fork's property tax rate has been going down since 2012.
- AF residents on average pay less in property taxes and utility fees than half the cities in Utah County.
- American Fork City hasn't raised its property tax rate since 2008.
- While the median home in AF produces \$413 annually in property taxes, it also costs roughly \$3,000 annually to service.

## In This Issue

New Program For Couples .....	2
Citizen Notifications System ..	2
Save Our Pipes .....	3
Talk Shop With a Cop .....	3
United Way 211 Tax Help .....	3
AF Recreation Activities .....	3
COVID-19 Vaccination Info .....	4

## Office Numbers

Administration .....	801-763-3000
Public Works.....	801-763-3060
Library.....	801-763-3070
Fitness Center.....	801-763-3080
Senior Center.....	801-763-3090

## Non-Emergency

Police .....	801-763-3020
Fire & Rescue.....	801-763-3045

## On-Call / After-Hour

Water/Pressurized .....	801-404-1253
Sewer/Storm Drain .....	801-404-7167
Streets .....	801-404-1255
Garbage .....	801-924-8500
Street Lights .....	801-814-4311



**AMERICAN FORK**  
[www.americanfork.gov](http://www.americanfork.gov)



# AF Library Offering New Program for Couples



Have you ever wanted to go to a marriage retreat or classes, but found them prohibitively expensive, too time consuming, or both? The library has your solution! This Relationship Enrichment Series is free and will take place one Friday Night a month for 6 months. Each class will last about an hour via Zoom.

You'll learn new skills in each class and have a chance to practice them for a month before the next class. Each couple only needs

to register once for each date (unless they'll be joining from different locations). You can register for one class or all six for maximum relationship enrichment! Even if you don't register for them all, the Zoom link will be the same for each class, so once you have it you're welcome to any of the classes. All of the classes will be taught by licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Kenneth Jeppesen.

For more information on how to attend, visit [aflibrary.eventbrite.com](https://aflibrary.eventbrite.com)

## AF Expanding Communication Alert System

In an effort to better streamline communication efforts, American Fork City is beginning the process of consolidating the city's alert notification systems into one comprehensive communications tool called AF NotifyME. Beginning in March, the city will begin utilizing the Everbridge (Reverse 911) platform exclusively to communicate with AF residents who have opted-in to receive notifications.

American Fork City Administrator, David Bunker noted, "In the past we've used two communication platforms for citizen notifications which was becoming increasingly difficult to manage. With AF NotifyME will be able to better keep AF residents informed. The system is easy for people to opt-in, manage their contact information, and allows users to customize the way we communicate with them."

Although American Fork City has been utilizing the Everbridge Reverse 911 system for many years, its primary function was on emergency alerts. Now because Everbridge has expanded its functionality this system enables us to provide citizens with critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods. Additionally, citizens can opt-in to receive information on community events such as festivals, parades, concerts and more!

Get alerted about emergencies and other important community news by signing up to AF NotifyME today! Visit [americanfork.gov](https://americanfork.gov) and click on the "Notification" icon to get started. If you've already created an account, be sure to login and subscribe to the new alerts categories. You will receive regular messages via text and email on the topics you care about.

### Sign Up Today!

Sign up to receive City alerts and notifications at:  
[americanfork.gov](https://americanfork.gov)

**With the outbreak of the Coronavirus, American Fork City has seen a significant increase in cleaning and bathroom wipes that are being flushed down the toilet.**

# SAVE OUR PIPES DON'T FLUSH WIPES





# Talk Shop With a Cop

## Protecting Yourself From Fraud



American Fork Police Department regularly receives calls from citizens who have been the victims of fraud. One specific type of fraud we are seeing on the rise deals with gift cards. Although these types of scams vary, here are a few examples our police department has investigated recently.

**The IRS Scam.** Someone contacts you via phone or email saying you owe money to the IRS and say you can avoid fines or punishment if you pay quickly. They'll recommend you use gift cards as an option. They'll likely ask you to provide the card number of the phone or email.

**The Overdrawn Account Scam.** In a similar format as the IRS scam they will pretend to represent a common, large organization like Amazon or Walmart and say your account is overdrawn. They will again suggest you pay with a gift card.

**The Family Member in Need Scam.** In this scam they will notify you that a family member has been in an accident or is in jail in another country and needs money quickly to have surgery or be released.

**The Authority Figure Scam.** As part of the above scams, or sometime on their own, they will pretend to be in some position of power to give urgency to their request. They may pose as a member of law enforcement, or the IRS, or part of the judicial system. They may say you have outstanding warrants or court fees. If you say those do not apply to you, they may push back, saying even though it's a mistake you'll need to pay a fee to put a hold on processing the paperwork so it can be corrected. They may even promise the money will get refunded once everything is worked out. On one occasion a suspect met the victim at the Salt Lake County Jail's parking lot to collect the gift cards in person.

Because most scammers call from outside the State of Utah, and in many cases outside of the United States, investigating this type of fraud is very difficult. While the police department wants to help right the wrong done to every one of our citizens, in many of these cases it's not feasible to send an officer out of state to investigate. So, it's important for residents to be informed and prepared so as to avoid the scams all together.

Please consider the following tips to help you avoid scams:

- No government agency or business will ever ask you to pay them using gift cards.
- Tell the person you'll get back to them. This will give you time to think things through and possibly verify the story.
- Call the agency directly to verify what someone is saying. While you can't always know who is calling you, you can know who you are calling. Look up the numbers or emails yourself, don't get them from the person contacting you.
- Call the police. You can always call the American Fork Police's non-emergency line and they can help you determine the validity of the request.
- Don't give out any personal information, such as social security, account information, or date of birth to people you don't know. Divulging personal information sets you up for future identity theft.

You are encouraged to contact the police department if you have any questions; e-mails may be sent to [policetalkshop@americanfork.gov](mailto:policetalkshop@americanfork.gov) or [alunt@americanfork.gov](mailto:alunt@americanfork.gov). Depending on the number and type of questions received, your question may be answered via the city newsletter, e-mail, or phone call.



**AMERICAN FORK**  
FITNESS &  
RECREATION

### Public Swim Lesson Sessions

Afternoons Mondays and Wednesdays  
(\$35.00 - \$39.00)  
Afternoons Tuesdays and Thursdays  
(\$35.00 - \$39.00)  
Contact the fitness center for private lessons options (starts at \$85.00)

### Lifeguard Training Course

March 16, 2021 – March 31  
(\$180.00-\$200.00)

### Water Safety Instructor Course

Starts March 23, 2021 (\$150.00-\$200.00)

### 2021 Summer Swim Lesson Program Registration

Starts Monday March 22, 2021

American Fork Aquatics is accepting applications for daytime lifeguards, swim instructors, and offering upcoming lifeguard training courses in the coming months.

### Men's & Coed Softball

Registration open now. Games begin April 19, 2021  
Call or check our website to see if space is still available!

### Tennis Lessons

For beginning to intermediate players ages 8 and up  
Registration opens April 1  
Sessions begin in June

### Golf Lessons

For youth up to 18 years old and women 18 and over. A variety of lessons from beginning to advanced  
Registration opens April 1  
Sessions held in June

All these activities and detailed program information can be found at [affc.activityreg.com](http://affc.activityreg.com) or [americanfork.gov](http://americanfork.gov)

The fitness center will be hosting the Icebreaker Triathlon on Saturday; March 27, 2021 from approximately 8:00am – 1:00pm. The race goes from the pool to the north ball field and then a bike/run looping around some streets through American Fork and Highland off 1st east and comes back to the fitness center.

# American Fork City to Become Hub for COVID-19 Vaccinations

Nomi Health, an Orem-based company, was recently granted a contract through the state of Utah to help set up COVID-19 vaccination sites and the company is now partnering with the Utah County Health Department to do just that. Because of American Fork's central location within Utah County, a major vaccination site will be established just off the 500 East Exit and is anticipated to administer

up to 2000 vaccination per day. The facility is set to open within the next few weeks and will be a critical resource combating the spread of COVID-19.

To stay up to date on the opening of the American Fork vaccination location, visit the Utah County Health Department website at [health.utahcounty.gov](https://health.utahcounty.gov).

## 7 facts you need to know about COVID-19 vaccines



### Fact #1 COVID-19 vaccines don't give you COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines don't contain any part of the virus, so it can't cause you to get COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines protect you from the virus. You may get side effects after you get vaccinated, like a sore arm or fever. These are normal and common.



### Fact #2 COVID-19 vaccines are safe, even though they were developed quickly.

No steps were skipped developing COVID-19 vaccines. Scientists around the world have been working on this technology for more than a decade. This is why it was possible to make a safe and effective vaccine available very quickly.



### Fact #3 COVID-19 vaccines may protect you against more than one strain of the virus.

Viruses change, or develop small mutations, over time. Data shows COVID-19 vaccines are effective against the strains we've seen so far of the virus that causes COVID-19.



### Fact #4 COVID-19 vaccines don't change your DNA.

COVID-19 vaccines are mRNA vaccines and don't interact with your DNA in any way. They trigger an immune response that creates antibodies to protect you from getting infected with COVID-19.



### Fact #5 COVID-19 vaccines have not been linked to infertility or miscarriage.

COVID-19 hasn't caused infertility in women who've had the virus, so there's no reason to think the vaccine would cause it. No other vaccine has ever been found to increase any risks for unborn or breastfed babies, or for pregnancies. There was some information spread online that was **not true**, saying that the protein in the vaccine attacks a protein in the placenta. **This is not true.** The small number of amino acids in the two proteins would not cause that effect. COVID-19 vaccines haven't been tested in pregnant women, but pregnant women do get vaccinated for other illnesses during pregnancy. Pregnant women have an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and there is a chance you could give COVID-19 to your baby after he or she is born. Talk to your doctor to see if you should get vaccinated.



### Fact #6 COVID-19 vaccines don't contain microchips or tracking devices.

Misinformation that COVID-19 vaccines contain microchips or tracking devices **has been proven false**. We know exactly what is in each vaccine. The list of ingredients in each vaccine can be found [online](https://www.fda.gov/oc/ohrt/covid-19-vaccine-ingredients).



### Fact #7 People with chronic diseases or conditions should get vaccinated as soon as it is your turn to get the vaccine.

If you have a chronic disease, like diabetes, you are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective for people with chronic diseases or conditions.

## VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

### PHASE 1:

#### NON-HOSPITAL HEALTHCARE WORKERS

- Practicing medical providers/staff
- Practicing dental providers/staff
- Pharmacy staff
- Skilled nursing staff
- Home health staff
- Mental Health Care Workers
- Social workers
- Vision care
- Morticians
- Chiropractors
- Medical aesthetics

*Administrative support staff working directly with clients/ the public are included*

#### LONG TERM CARE & ASSISTED LIVING STAFF

- \*You will be notified through your organization when appointments are available
- \*Walgreens & CVS Pharmacies are providing vaccinations

#### K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL STAFF

- Alpine, Nebo, Provo School Districts
- \*You will be notified through your district when appointments are available
- \*Community Nursing Services (CNS) is providing vaccinations

*Available for schedule now*

#### FIRST RESPONDERS

- \*You will be notified through your organization when appointments are available
- \*UCHD is providing vaccinations

- Law enforcement
- Fire
- Ski Patrol

*Administrative support staff working directly with clients/ the public are included*  
*Available for schedule now*

### PHASE 2:

#### UTAHNS 70+

*Available for schedule now*

#### UTAHNS 65-69

*Available for schedule now*

#### UTAHNS WHO ARE 16 AND UP WITH CERTAIN HEALTH CONDITIONS

#### ALL UTAHNS

*Anticipated to start between May and July*

*Vaccinations should be available at a variety of locations. Locations where you can get vaccinated will be posted at [vaccinefinder.org/](https://vaccinefinder.org/).*

*Vaccinations provided by Utah County Health Department can be scheduled at: [health.utahcounty.gov/covid-19-vaccine/](https://health.utahcounty.gov/covid-19-vaccine/)*

## 3 EASY WAYS TO SIGN UP TO GET VACCINATED!



**ONLINE:**  
[healthevents.utahcounty.gov](https://healthevents.utahcounty.gov)



**CALL:**  
**801-851-4357**  
M-F, 8:30am - 4:00pm



**SIGN UP FOR TEXT ALERTS:**  
Text **UCHEALTH** to **888777**